

## **MWFA LTD**

### **COVID-19 SPECIAL RULES for 2020**

#### **“Special Considerations”**

---

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 disruption has caused disruption to the 2020 MWFA Competitions.

There has been an agreed sentiment with MWFA and its Member Clubs that the 2020 season would focus on trying to organise as many games as possible for all teams with the express acknowledgement that football in 2020 will not be the same as in previous years.

The clear intention of all decisions is to ensure that as many players from the 18,000 registered players can play as many matches as possible in the season window that has been delayed due to COVID-19 but extended due to negotiations with Council.

Following a series of MWFA Board Meetings, MWFA Club Forums and MWFA Competition Committee meetings, the MWFA has made some decisions in the best interests of the game and the players, which require some changes to the Playing Rules for the 2020 season.

This has been actioned by the MWFA Board based on the following section of the MWFA By-Laws:

#### **9.1 ISSUE OF BY-LAWS AND PLAYING RULES.**

##### **(a) Special Considerations**

The Board will have the power to consider special circumstances outside the prescribed limits of the MWFA By-Laws and Playing Rules should it be clear those special considerations are in the interests of the Game.

The special rules for 2020 will sit alongside the current MWFA Playing Rules and will over-ride any discrepancies between the published 2020 MWFA Playing Rules and the “2020 Special Considerations” listed below.

---

#### **MWFA Competitions**

##### **“2020 Special Considerations”**

#### **1. Competition structures**

- a. Regular Season (U12 and above)
  - i. All MWFA “Regular Season” Competitions (U12 and above) will start on 3 July and run through to the weekend of 25/26/26 September (upon final agreement with Council).
  - ii. At the end of the matches to be played on 25/26/27 September, the team with the highest number of points will be declared Major Premiers. If teams in any specific competition have played an uneven number of the games, the Major Premiers will be determined by points won per match (i.e. Points accumulated divided by matches played).
- b. Final Round (U12 and above)
  - i. On the weekend of October 3rd/4th, the 2020 season will finish with all teams taking part in a “Final Round”, whereby teams will play a final match based on their standings during the “Regular Season”. The matches will be organised based on the principle of 1v2, 3v4, 5v6,

7v8, 9v10 and 11v12, depending on the number of teams in each competition. The final competition table will be determined by the number of points won. If teams in any specific competition have played an uneven number of the games, the final competition table will be determined by points won per match (i.e. Points accumulated divided by matches played).

- ii. The winners of the 1v2 match in each competition will be declared “Knockout winners”
  - iii. The 1v2 matches in the “Final Round” are the only games that will be decided by extra time and penalty kicks.
  - iv. All other matches in the “Final Round” that end in a draw will not go to extra time or penalty kicks.
- c. 2020 season (U6 to U11 age groups)
- i. All MWFA Competitions (U11 and below) will start on 3 July and run through to the weekend of 3/4 October (upon final agreement with Council).

## **2. Borrowing Rules**

- a. The current rules and general principles around Borrowing Players will remain in place, specifically in relation to the principles around the eligibility of players that can be borrowed (Borrowing Eligibility Rules Table)
- b. The limit on the number of players who can be borrowed in a match will increase from 4 to 6
- c. The Number of times a player can be borrowed, before having to change teams, will increase from 4 to 6. Exemptions will be considered by MWFA Office on a case by case basis to avoid forfeits, consistent with the principle of maximising matches for each player and team.

## **3. Promotion and Relegation Men’s Premier League / AL1**

- a. There will be no promotion and relegation between the Men’s Premier League and AL1 competitions for the 2020 into the 2021 season

## **4. Team Referees**

- a. The Team Referee system for 2020 season will remain in place under the current rules
- b. Team Referees unable to fulfil their requirements before the start of the COVID-19 lockdown will be required to do the following:
  - i. Complete the on-line Laws of the Game component of the Team Referees Course
  - ii. Take part in an on-line Training Course, which will be organised via zoom (videoconference) by the MWFA and MWFRA.

## **5. Midweek matches**

- a. Junior competitions (U16s and below)
  - i. The MWFA will schedule games on weekdays (during the day) during School Holiday periods.
- b. Senior competitions (U18 and above)
  - i. The MWFA will schedule games (at night) during School Holiday periods

## **6. Final Registration date**

- a. The Final lodgement of registrations of players shall be with the registrar by 5pm on 31 July